



# America INNOVATES Act

*Implementing new national opportunities to vigorously accelerate technology, energy and science*

U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.)

## Section-by-Section

### TITLE I— INNOVATION MANAGEMENT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- SEC. 101. UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND ENERGY — Consolidates the positions of Under Secretary [for Energy] and Under Secretary for Science. Asks the DOE to consider linkages at the program level to better integrate basic research, applied research, and development and deployment activities.
- SEC. 102. NATIONAL LABORATORIES OPERATIONS AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT — Instructs the Secretary to coordinate a strategy for the evaluation and promotion of technology transfer at the National Labs, and spread best practices to improve operations and management across the Lab Complex.
- SEC. 103. SENSE OF SENATE ON AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL LABORATORIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY — Expresses support for the establishment of an independent “Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories” as stipulated in the Fiscal Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

### TITLE II— CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANT COMPETITIVENESS

- SEC. 201. AGREEMENTS FOR COMMERCIALIZING TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM — Instructs the DOE to establish a pilot program allowing more flexible agreements with non-governmental entities conducting research and development activities at the National Labs.
- SEC. 202. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMERCIALIZATION — Gives National Labs increased authority to enter into agreements for public-private partnerships with industry for small and medium-sized contracts.
- SEC. 203. INCLUSION OF EARLY-STAGE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION IN AUTHORIZED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES — Permits directors of the National Laboratories to use technology transfer funds to carry out early-stage and pre-commercial technology demonstration activities to identify and demonstrate potential commercial applications of their research results and technologies.
- SEC. 204. INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR STARTUPS AND SMALL BUSINESSES — Asks the DOE to educate small business grant applicants and awardees about user facilities and resources available at the National Labs and federally funded research and development centers.
- SEC. 205. FUNDING COMPETITIVENESS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND OTHER NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS — Exempts nonprofits and universities from the 20% cost share requirement for applied research and development grants for a 6-year period.

### TITLE III— ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

- SEC. 301. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT — Instructs the GAO to submit a report after 3 years assessing the impact of the applied research and technology transfer programs authorized in the bill.

Full legislative text and more at [www.coons.senate.gov/innovates](http://www.coons.senate.gov/innovates)

**[WWW.COONS.SENATE.GOV](http://WWW.COONS.SENATE.GOV)**